

December 2021

Vol 25, No 4

# Para Wirra News



'Devil's Nose in Morning Light' Photo: D Williams



From the Friends of Para Wirra (Patron: Mike Johnson)  
and the Barossa Goldfields Historical Society  
- Proudly members of Friends of Parks Inc.

## Welcome to the December 2021 Edition of Para Wirra News

What happened to 2021? I blinked and then it was gone. Despite the year moving so quickly, FOPW was busy with both hands on work and organisation and fulfilment of Grants. Our new sign, explaining the work of FOPW and encouraging visitors to join us, was erected in the nature play area, and multiple thousands of dollars were spent on South Para Restoration. The responsibility of looking after this amazing park of ours is getting done.

Unfortunately, we have lost some friends along the way too. A page is dedicated to two of the finest members of FOPW.

Thanks to those who have submitted articles for this quarters newsletter, I can always do with more. Thanks also to all the members of FOPW and BGHS for their continued support of the park.

Anyway, please enjoy the following read.

*Darren Williams*



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# President's Report

October-December 2021



Birthdays: Beryl Peck 4/12, Yvonne Gravier 16/12, Kym Smith 18/12, Obelia Williams 4/12, Mark Wilson 6/12, Lesley Carnogursky 15/12

Anniversaries: Phil Gillett 15/12/2011=**10yrs**, Steve Taylor 19/10/96 **25yrs**.

Grants: **STEVE TAYLOR:**

**South Para Valley Continued Restoration Grant \$5,500 (INC GST):**

Grassy Woodlands Grant \$9,700

Steve reported that the contractors **Josh Noble** (Restore Environmental Services) and **Amanda Pearce** (Bush Regeneration) are on track with their work for both the Grassy Woodlands grant of \$10,670 and the South Para Valley Continued Restoration grant of \$5,500. Amanda has been working in the Wild Dog valley on olives and boneseed and Josh has finished his Watsonia control with some olive and boneseed work done. Access to some areas because of wet conditions has been a problem at times.

Recent Partnership Grant applied for: \$51,900

Small Grants applied for: \$5,500 inc. GST

**Working Bees: Report on today's working bee and Whack-A-Weed Day-**

Steve and Phil reported that today's (20th Nov) working bee was very successful with a group of 11, including new member Jo Ludlow, working on boneseed, olives, bridal creeper and artichokes in the Wild Dog creek area.

Steve also reported that the Whack a Weed Day was a great success displaying community engagement at its finest. Steve liaised with the One Tree Hill scouts, cubs and joey many of whom enthusiastically attended the working bee with their families, joining 16 of our Friends to remove boneseed and bridal creeper from around the Helipad area. Their leader Bindi Hawkey and Steve combined to write a very good article about the day for the One Tree Hill Grapevine Community Magazine (Sept 2021 edition).

Four members of the public, including two children of one of the adults, booked in for the event with DEW and all are interested in continuing some involvement with our Friends group. Thanks to Tammy and Aislinn for organising the sausage sizzle that followed the working bee.

Other Business: It was agreed to encourage Scouts and Cubs to camp in the Park more regularly and help out with weed control as has happened in the past. It was also suggested that students undertaking Duke of Edinburgh may be interested in a similar undertaking. Tom will contact Trinity College to see if they still run the Duke of Edinburgh Award system.

Tammy reported that the park of the Month activities went well. She also reported that a new water pipeline is currently being put in from the large tank at the workshop.

A large property across the road from Glenburnie will shortly be passed to the Park.

Altogether an interesting 3 months, with the usual enthusiasm and great fellowship from our members.

My thanks to you all and best wishes for 2022.

Patsy.

## INTRODUCING RANGER TIM HOWARD

Some of you may know me, but for those who don't I'll give a brief background on myself and how I've now been appointed as the Liaison Ranger to support the Friends of Para Wirra and the Barossa Goldfields Historical Society.

I started my career in the department back in 2006 as a project fire fighter based at Blackhill.

My first 7 years on the "Fire Crew" I was part of the team that operates within the northern SA Water reserves.

This allowed me to gain experience and knowledge in fire prevention, conservation and land management. I gained great local knowledge of the area and liked it so much, bought the old institute building "The School House "on Goldfields Rd. back in 2010.

I remained on the Fire crew for another 4 years (working out of Blackhill) when I was offered a full-time contract position working for the AMLR Nth Lofty District as a Senior Field officer.

This role allowed me to gain experience within the maintenance and park presentation team.

I was then given the title of Ranger 2 years ago...and thanks to Covid and my proximity to Para Wirra, was asked to join the team here.

Since my time here, there has been a few staff restructures with Rangers going on maternity leave, (Ash having a little boy) Rangers taking opportunities to gain experience in other regions (Kevin backfilled a senior ranger role at Clare) and new Rangers coming on board (Sarah backfilling for Ash). This has allowed me to gain experience in Ranger type duties and now given me the opportunity to be YOUR Ranger liaison. WOOO HOOO☺

I currently work a 10/4 roster, but start my shift on a Wednesday, which is different to the other rangers. I look forward to coming along and assisting when I can to your events, working bees, meetings and helping with potential grants and funding for the group. I hope we can forge (no pun intended) a good relationship as a liaison and a friendly local too.

Feel free to contact me for any group related matters during my rostered shift.

Thanks, and Cheers... see you soon

Tim Howard

tim.howard@sa.gov.au





## Barossa Goldfields Historical Society



### Secretary's Report - Leonie Hobbs

Unfortunately, we cancelled our annual Open Day due to the Covid issues. Hopefully, next year we can go ahead with a bigger and better event. However, quite a lot has been achieved these last two months. The Poppet head repairs are complete so the structure is really solid now.

We had a visit from the Gawler Primary School which went really well. Good bunch of children.

Also, we had a visit from the Morris Car Club. They were interested in the history of the area, and didn't want to go for a walk. They stayed around for some time. Bob and I took photos of the Morris cars that some of the members arrived in.

Looks like the next project to go ahead is the installation of the interpretive signs. Hopefully, the weather will be good!

Covid is probably going to have an effect on the Christmas event, but hopefully we can still have it. And the Australia Day breakfast. Wait and see. Summer is nearly here, really it is!

Have a great Christmas everyone and a happy and prosperous new year!

Patricia (Pat) Bond

19 April 1937 – 10 December 2021.

Funeral: 23rd Dec 2021 at Taylor & Forgie.

Pat was a long term member of the Friends of Para Wirra. She was secretary for a while then historian. The Barossa Goldfields Historical Society was another interest for Pat. She was secretary there also, and attended many of the re-enactment days, usually dressed in period costume. Pat heard that the scale model of the Lady Alice mine scale model was to be taken out of the Uleybury school and scrapped. She immediately let the group know and was instrumental in obtaining the model, which is now installed in the Museum at Bowden's Cottage.



The photo, is the tribute at the funeral. It consisted of the little emu, some emu feathers, a copy of the "Flowers of Para Wirra" some flowers picked from Bowden's Cottage, a little phial of "gold", and a gold pan." Rest in Peace beautiful lady.

Colin Charlesworth.

21 July 1928 – 25 December 2021.

Funeral: 6th Jan 2022 at Taylor & Forgie.

Colin was also a long term member of the Friends Of Para Wirra, attending with his wife, Ruth. Colin was a handyman and helped with building or repairs to various projects for the Friends. His funeral card quote says:

"It's not what we write  
It's not what we say  
It's how we remember you  
In our own special way."

Rest in Peace, a true gentleman.



## FOPW Bushcare Grants-Steve Taylor

2021 was a busy year for FOPW in many ways, and despite the challenges of dealing with Covid we still managed to make significant gains in controlling key weeds and contributing to bush regeneration at Para Wirra.



We had 2 bushcare grants running concurrently in grassy areas of the park (\$9700 from Green Adelaide) and in the South Para valley (\$5500 from Friends of Parks). To enable us to win these grants FOPW and supporters offered, then far exceeded a combined contribution of \$2200 worth of effort, costing at 45.10 per hr.

The grants enabled us to engage specialist bushcare contractors to take on some arduous tasks in rough terrain. Para Wirra has been well supported by these local businesses for many years and our dedicated contractors go out of their way to control significant weeds such as boxthorn and artichoke when encountered in the process of getting to the target weed control areas. They also provide information and photos of rare and interesting plants along with maps, photos and reports of work done and recommendations for future effort.



This year staff from “Restore Environmental Services” reported a magnificent grass tree above South Para gorge and an “Environmental Weed Control and Revegetation”



worker noted a rare and seldom seen annual fern in a South Para rock shelter.

We are about to embark on our 2022 program, enhanced by another \$5500 Small Grant from Friends of Parks and are hopeful that a much larger Partnerships Grant (with South Para Biodiversity Project, for \$59000 over 2 years) will be allocated to FOPW in the near future. We'll get stuck into it again as the summer heat recedes!



Steve Taylor, Friends of Para Wirra

The following photos are abstracted from the report from Amanda, 'Bush Regeneration' (Ed.)

*Anogramma leptophylla* (Annual Fern)



10 Cont...

**Pre Boneseed Control**



**Post Boneseed Control**







# GIFT IDEAS FROM THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA

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Edited by Michael Johnson



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OR PHONE 8280 7279.



## Butterflies and Moths in the Park —Kath Mathews

Everyone loves a butterfly and there are plenty to be found in the park.

### Lesser Wanderer

A very close relative of the Wanderer with similar characteristics.

Wingspan 60 mm and mature lava 38 mm.

It lays its eggs on the cotton bush and the chrysalis is the same as the wanderer. Markings on the lava are a similar colours to Wanderer but with red and black tentacles. As you can see from the 2 photos you cannot always see the red tentacles.



### Meadow Argus

Mature 35 mm long

Brisbaneinsects.com

A large butterfly, wingspan - M 40 mm, F 43 mm.

Larva food is native herbaceous plants and invasive weeds. They eat the soft parts of the plants.

Butterflies like Fan-flowers – Scaevola spp Goodenia spp, snapdragons and weeds.





## Flower Watch - Summer/Autumn flowers in the Park —Kath Mathews

Summer is here and the beautiful flower displays of spring have withered in the heat and plants are busy spreading their seeds. However there are a few brave plants that dare to show their beauty in the early months of the year – it's just a matter of knowing what, when and where to look for them. While times vary depending with our changeable weather here are a few to look out in the early months of the year.



**Pink Garland Lily** – *Calostemma purpureum* – is one of the earliest and common in Para Wirra. It grows to about 50 cm tall with long leafless stalks putting on a colourful display from summer to autumn. This photo was taken at top of devils nose walk but it usually is in damper grassy areas.

**Hills Daisy** – *Ixodia achillaeoides* is stimulated by fire and grows prolifically in recently burnt areas. A small shrub from 30 cm to 1.5 m. Its stems have a squarish shape with clusters of small papery daisy-flowers. Photos taken in Gate 11.



**Silver Banksia** - *Banksia marginata* is a tall shrub growing from 1-10 m. These are common in Gate 11 and Autumn is their main flowering time. However they can flower much throughout the year.

The Friends of Para Wirra undertake working bees every first Thursday of the month and third Saturday of the month. Meet at Park Office at 9:00am.

Program TBA

\*Please check CFS Website. Events cancelled during days of Total Fire Ban.

### THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA

For more information please contact:

**Patsy Johnson 08 8280 7279**

Website:



### THE BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bowden's Cottage: Cnr Goldfields & Allendale Roads

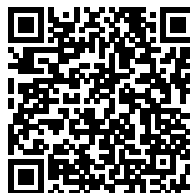
For more information contact:

**Leonie Hobbs 0413 331 598**

[bgoldhs@gmail.com](mailto:bgoldhs@gmail.com)

Website: [bghs.org.au](http://bghs.org.au)

Friends of Para Wirra Conservation Park  
is now on facebook.



Newsletter Articles and Correspondence Welcome  
Email: [Darren Williams, dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com](mailto:Darren Williams, dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com)